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Duxbury Clipper

Bluefish River Septic System Changed

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

With the pending sale of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society's Drew House on Washington Street, selectmen decided this week to update their regulations on the Bluefish River shared septic system to reflect changes in usage by the three homes connected to it.

Acting as Water and Sewer Commissioners, selectmen voted unanimously to reassign the 15 bedroom units allotted to three residences on the shared septic system by taking two units away from a home that lost two bedrooms when the homeowners demolished an ell a few years ago and giving those two bedroom units to the Drew house.

The Bluefish River shared septic system was the first such system the town installed

septic allocation and found "a lack of clarity" in how much of the shared system the house had been given. This had to be cleared up before the sale of the property could be finalized. The Drew house is the first property on the Bluefish River shared system to be sold. He said selectmen could clear up the issue and reassign the number of bedroom units to each of the three homes on the system to make them reflect the real number of bedrooms.

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After hearing no objections from Phil Caliendo, who would be losing two bedroom septic units, Selectmen Chairwoman Betsy Sullivan and Selectman Andre Martecchini voted 2-0 to real-

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- Jim Hartford, past president, DR&HS

to clean up pollution from shoreline septic systems that were leaching into the area waters. The properties involved are surrounded by salt marsh and could not fix their failed septic systems on site. The shared system was approved in 1993 at the annual town meeting at a cost of \$150,000.

The Duxbury Bank at the corner of St. George Street and Washington Street, also known as the Cable House, is a private home owned by Phil and Susie Caliendo. It had been given nine septic units based on the nine bedrooms it had when the system was built. The house now has seven bedrooms, losing two when the two-story ell was removed from the backside of the house in 2000. The Drew house was allotted two bedroom septic units because it had been used as a one-bedroom apartment upstairs and an office and library for the DR&HS downstairs, although it has four bedrooms upstairs. It is currently being sold as a four-bedroom residence and this sale prompted town officials to review the Bluefish River septic allocations because its share of the septic system needed to reflect its four bedrooms.

Also on the shared system is the Spriggs house with three bedroom units, but it was not affected by this new allocation. Neither was the Ellison Center for the Arts, which is also tied into the shared system. Unlike the Snug Harbor shared system, the Bluefish River system does not have any extra capacity for members to buy if their situations change.

Jim Hartford, past president of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, researched the issue of the Drew House's

locate the units. Selectman John Tully did not attend the meeting.

Selectmen also voted that the reassignment of bedroom units must be recorded with each home's deed.

In other business, selectmen:

- Received a draft list of warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting to be held March 10, 2007. There are currently six Special Town Meeting articles and 31 annual meeting articles. The deadline for article submission was Dec. 6.

- Voted to renew 15 liquor licenses of all types and 36 common victualler's licenses; four automobile dealers' licenses; four entertainment licenses; two ice cream truck licenses; as well as an assortment of other licenses, such as inn holder, general (peddler's), parking lot and livery. All licenses must be renewed annually.

- Appointed Bruce Bygate to the Board of Health to fill an unexpired term until June 20, 2008 and appointed Thomas McClure as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Selectmen accepted McClure's resignation as a regular member of the ZBA. They also accepted the resignation of James Bunnell and Paul McDermott from the North Hill Advisory Committee. The Duxbury Youth Commission also has vacancies for volunteers. Selectmen urge anyone interested in serving on any town committee to contact their office.

- Announced the annual balanced budget presentation by Town Manager Richard MacDonald will take place at their meeting next Monday night in the basement of town hall.